

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 SS-15 SP-02 MC-02 INR-07

L-03 IGA-02 /044 R

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PM/SAS:DJJAMES

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R 240248Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T STATE 043805

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE: EPMG REACTIONS

REF: ADDIS 1967

1. REGRET THAT THERE HAS BEEN UNFORTUNATE ACCUMULATION OF BAD NEWS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS LATELY. EXPLANATION OF INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF TANKS CONTAINED SECDEF 183222Z FEB. THIS EXPLANATION WAS OF COURSE MADE TO GENERAL YOHANNES AT TIME OF LETTER'S DELIVERY. MISSING PARTS OF AIM-9B MISSILE IS NEWS TO US. DOD MESSAGE ON SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION (SECDEF 122252Z) WAS NOT CLEARED WITH STATE.

2. ALTHOUGH SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TAKEN IN PUBLIC SESSION, WE DO NOT KNOW IF ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IS AWARE OF DETAILS. FURTHERMORE WE SEE LITTLE USE IN VOLUNTEERING
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THIS SORT OF INFORMATION SINCE IT IS FAR FROM FINAL, AND

WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO EXPLAIN THIS DEVELOPMENT IF
QUERIED ON IT HERE BY PMG EMBASSY.

3. FULL SENATE VOTED OUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZA-
TION BILL ON FEBRUARY 18 WHICH CONTAINS ONLY \$5 MILLION
IN MAP FOR ETHIOPIA. (ADDITIONAL MAP CUTS WERE MADE FOR

OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.) HOWEVER, HOUSE VERSION, VOTED
ON BY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, BUT NOT YET BY
FULL HOUSE, HAS \$10 MILLION IN MAP FOR ETHIOPIA. IF FULL
HOUSE ACTION RETAINS \$10 MILLION FOR ETHIOPIAN MAP, WE
HOPE THAT PROPOSED SENATE CUT CAN BE OVERCOME DURING
HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE OR AUTHORIZATION BILL. ALL OF
THIS COULD BE EXPLAINED TO PMG HERE OR IN ADDIS UPON
REQUEST, BUT AGAIN, WE SEE NO NEED TO VOLUNTEER THIS
INFORMATION PREMATURELY, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY SPECIFIC
CASES SUCH AS THAT CITED IN CMAAG 181000Z WHICH IS NOW
BEING DEALT WITH BY DOD/ISA. OF COURSE, WE STILL FACE
THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.

4. OF THE THREE INSTANCES CITED IN REFTTEL, A WAS IMPOSED
BY STATUTORY REQUIREMENT, B APPARENTLY CAUSED BY ERRORS
IN PIPELINE THAT WE WERE NOT AWARE OF, AND C NOT YET AT
THE STAGE WERE HIGH-LEVEL GOVT. TO GOVT. CONSULTATIONS
ARE NECESSARY. WE CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN RE MANNER
IN WHICH YOU WERE INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND
WE HAVE CONTACTED DOD IN EFFORT TO AVOID REPETITION.
WE DO AGREE FULLY THAT WE SHOULD GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION
TO NEED FOR EMB/MAAG CONSULTATIONS WITH PMG. INGERSOLL

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